

THE TREEHOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

Issue 97
January 2014



The Treehouse School



Edith makes good use of The Treehouse's Christmas present

Stepping Up to The Mark...

We were all very sorry to hear of Shaz's recent and relatively sudden bereavement last weekend. Those of you who know Shaz well, will know that what she would want at this sad time is for us to crack on and carry on, as close to normal, as possible.

Shaz will be delighted to hear that The Gang certainly rose to the challenge. For some weeks now, the children have been meeting and often exceeding our expectations both in terms of their behaviour, attitudes and outcomes, and this week was no exception. Following our visit to The Act of Remembrance held at The Pavilion on Wednesday, where Samuel read a poem he had written, The Gang produced some exceptional writing, as well as: cooking the lunch (Paige); taking advice from others (James and Samuel); offering to teach others how to mix paint (Mags); and stepping in to help clean the school (Freya and Martha)!

As a result, The whole school were awarded 'The Golden Cushion' - a First for The Treehouse, and a delicious chocolate cake was enjoyed by all. Our organic approach to educating children is certainly proving fruitful.

A Poppy Acrostic

Poppys,
Out in the battlefields
People fighting
People falling
Yes! The war is over

By Ollie

(I love Ollie's use of repetition and alliteration)

What a Bonus!

We are delighted that Andrea has agreed to work for The Trust on a part time basis to help to raise much needed funds. We are always looking for new sources of funding; if you come across anything or anyone of interest (!) please e-mail Andrea theturner9@o2.co.uk

WANTED!

We need a mouse/rat proof metal trunk or very large tin that could be used to store pet and bird food outside. If you can help, please let us know.

The Treehouse Trusts' Annual General Meeting

The Trustees would like to invite you to The Trusts Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday 9th March at 5.30 pm. The meeting, which will be held at The Treehouse, is expected to take an hour.

Dates for Your Diaries

Monday 26 th January	Netball Lesson – Crowmarsh Village Hall (Home drop off) Girls, please tie your hair up!
Wednesday 27 th Jan	am Big School Birdwatch with the Wyatt Brothers (venue tbc) 1.30 pm Refashion Workshop
Thursday 29 th January	am Judo Lesson 11.45 pm Leslie and Freddie Scott visiting (the creator of Jenga and other games)
Friday 30 th January	Friday Forest - The Patch (bikes please)
Monday 2 nd February	Netball Lesson – Crowmarsh Village Hall (Home drop off)
Tuesday 3 rd February,	7.00 pm ACE Team Meeting The Red Lion
Monday 9 th Feb	Netball Match Children versus parents

Dress warmly on Wednesday, for the Big School Bird Watch Survey which we will be doing with the Wvatt Brothers!



Going for Gold!

Trees

Ask the children to check your shopping receipt - do the amounts add up to the total? They have been using column addition to check (hundreds, tens and units).

Houses

Practise your 'Take Five' mental maths at home. Can you answer all of the questions in 5 minutes or less? Try starting in different places on the sheet. Can you beat your parents?

Keeping You and Your Child in the Loop...

The most effective learning takes place when the learner is able to articulate it, which is why we introduced the Learning Logs at The Treehouse. These books, organised according to 'smart areas', are used to capture and record the progress that the children make in their learning. As the children take a growing interest in their learning, setting their own areas for development, some of them are also taking more responsibility for it, making their own log entries independently. This is something that we are keen to encourage and develop, so that over time, we have a comprehensive record of their achievements and also the learning becomes embedded.

From next week, we are going to trial sending the logs home on a Friday (not ideal due to Forest School but we'll give it a go) so that you can look through them together over the weekend with your child. Commenting positively and constructively, either verbally or in writing, will strengthen this approach. It would also be a good opportunity for the children to do a 'Friday Forest' entry, reflecting on what they feel that they have gained from the session. Whilst eventually it will be your child's responsibility to ensure that the books are shared, looked after at home, and returned every Monday (without fail please), we would ask that you help them initially to meet this objective.

If you are looking for something to do, how about:

- Entering Giffords Circus Competition. Send them your drawings for a circus costume based on the theme 'Moonsongs'. The winning costume will be made up to fit the winner. Runners up will receive a family ticket to Giffords Circus (well worth seeing!) For more information visit www.giffordscircus.com
- Entering Weetabix 'Weetabuddy' competition (like Tess and Martha showed us)
- Taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch so that your bird spotting skills are spot on for the Big school birdwatch.
- Watching 'Winter Watch' on I player.
- Making up your own number teaser for the board.
- Watching an episode or two of The Wombles on You Tube so that you become familiar with some of the characters for the film we are going to make.
- Playing a board game with your family or friends. We will be meeting the creator of Jenga next week to find out how she created it, and lots of other fantastic board games.

This week, a golden mention to All Members of The Gang, who were all awarded The Golden Cushion (A Treehouse Record Breaker!) for different reasons on Thursday. What a Smart Bunch!